

This is ACHERON, the official journal of the National Fantasy Fan Federation Games Bureau Diplomacy Division. It appears at irregular intervals. It is free to Members of the Division, 10/\$1 to members of the Bureau, and 10/\$1.50 to others. This is Pandemonium Publication #335, edited and published by Rod Walker, 5058 Hawley Blvd., San Diego CA 92116. Bureau Chairman: Don Miller. Division Chief [also ACHERON Editor and Orphan Games Director]: Rod Walker. Archives Director: Walt Buchanan. United Kingdom Data Director: Hartley Patterson. Ratings Director & DIPLOGRAPH Ed.: Gary Jones.

ACHERON 8

24 June 1971

MEMBERSHIP. Several members have not yet renewed their membership for 1971-1972. Some have told me they intend to, but have presumably forgotten to send in \$1 dues for the fiscal year. This issue of ACHERON is being sent to all 1970-1971 members; thereafter, ACHERON will be sent only to 1971-1972 members. Your status in this regard?

Your membership is current for 1971-1972. Thank you.

✓ Your membership has not yet been renewed. Please remit \$1 dues by Thursday, 15 July 1971, if at all possible. If you can't spare the cash I can always arrange for deferred payment. The important thing is that I know your status. Please reply.

Note: A person who is not now, nor has he ever been, a member of the Division has been engaging in unwarranted interference with the operation of this organization. He has been urging members not to renew their memberships. Now, while there is nothing wrong with public statements, which can be said by all and answered, this kind of secretive approach is neither fair nor proper.

I would like to request that members who have been so contacted write me so that we may discuss the matter. I do not intend to publish a list of people (if you want to say, "I asked me not to rejoin", that is another matter), nor do anything else to exacerbate an already unfortunate situation. I am interested only in keeping lines of communication open.

ELECTION '71. Chairman Miller has not yet certified to me the names of those who cast ballots in the last election. I will print the list as soon as it is in hand.

BALLOT RESULTS. There was no ballot last issue; hence, no results.

NEW APPOINTMENT. Hartley Patterson, the new editor/publisher of WAR BULLETIN (Don Miller's other Dippy "line"), has volunteered to take overworked Don Turnbull's position in funnelling UK game information through us to those in the states who compile data.

THE DIPLOMACY ASSOCIATION is underway with the publication of WAZIR 1 last month. A number of activities seem to be going on, but much of my information is second-hand and not based on official announcements. The most important program seems to be the "Consultant" program, a sort of "Big Brother" (not in the 1984 sense, but in the Boy's Club sense) idea in which a more experienced player helps introduce the hobby to a novice. Each member of the Board of Governors apparently has a "Consultant's Committee" for the geographical area in which he is located. While this seems to be partly invitational, I cannot see that there would be any objection if services were offered. If any of you wish to help with this project, write the DA Director nearest where you live (if you don't know the address, ask me).

DIPLOGROK. Please don't forget to support your Division 'zine. It is 8/\$1 to Gary Jones, 1070 Colgate, Memphis TN 38106. Included in the first couple of issues will be articles by John Boardman, Larry Peery, Eugene Prosnitz, Rod Walker, and others. There will soon be a rating system designed by Editor Jones. Also included will be the notorious "Grudge Game", the game John Beshara was afraid to join. Players are: John Smythe, Charles Reinsel, Eugene Prosnitz, Rod Walker, Buddy Tretick, Hal Naus, and Len Lakofka. This may be the Game of the Decade; don't miss a single blood-soaked season!

A member who asks not to be named write, "Can we make recommendations to the Diplomacy Association? I mean, we can as members (or I hope we can) but can the Diplomacy Division make them by a vote? Wouldn't it be more effective if a group of players and DAs made a joint suggestion?"

I see no reason why not. Members who wish the Division to make recommendations to the Association should send them to me and we can vote on them.

In fact, there is one I'd like to suggest, as a test case and so that we can get the feel of the procedure. It is my understanding that the DA will not sell subscriptions to DAZ apart from memberships. While there would probably be no price differential, there may be people who do not wish to join but would still like to receive the 'zine. Would you like to recommend that the DA offer DAZ as a subscription? See Ballot #9.

LEN LAKOFKA has written, and requested that I publish herein, the following item. As you know, space limitations in ACHERON normally force me to avoid verbatim quotation in extenso; however, this is a skinny issue and the item is very important. I realize that in printing this I will be heaping fuel on a fire. However, it is my responsibility to the organization not to exercise my authority as Division Chief for my own personal benefit. Space limitations are one thing, but outright censorship is another. This is a "damned if I do and damned if I don't" situation, so I do. Len says:

"In GRAUSTARK 238 Mr. John Beshara and Mr. Rod Walker are having another of those famous Postal Perils. This one, however, could be very damaging to the entire hobby of postal Diplomacy, as it is being carried out by the heads of 2 Diplomacy organizations.

"The novice, who all associations are attempting to woo, must be both perplexed and aghast at the contents of GRAUSTARK 238. Here a mature, adult, experienced, "professional" Diplomacy player is attacking, in base and vulgar style, the head of another organization. Does this new player want to be greeted with such a fate if he too becomes involved with this new hobby? I would venture the answer of no.

"Mr. Beshara's attack is hardly just reply to a series of press releases in GRAUSTARK over which he is making such a commotion. It is common knowledge that in Postal Diplomacy an occasional slice or few remark is made in a press release, and if Mr. Beshara is too thin-skinned or too above the rest of us mortals to accept this fact, he should not be involved with postal play.

"I have made a petition to the Board of Directors of the DA asking them to censure their Chairman for this attack. He should be censured not as that officer, but as a player. Yet if as Chairman of the DA, he can, as a player, be allowed to be base and vulgar, then he only casts aspersions upon his high office. Can his role be removed from him that easily?

In like manner, I believe the NPGS DD should state that it does not condone such vulgar attacks by any player and should make this vote known to the Board of the DA and all postal players. We are not running a hobby

where trash-mouthed individuals can release their vile spume whenever they please, especially when that individual is, supposedly, a prominent individual in that hobby. Are we just a collection of half-literate tuffs and street brawlers to be subjected to such garbage? If the Board of the DA does not see its duty, then the N3FQB DD should at least be obliged to see it. I urge Mr. Walker to advise the DD of its rights and prerogatives and to set a precedent by which good taste can be properly displayed."

Members are referred to ACHERON 2. In that issue, a "censure" procedure was suggested. It has not since been used, but may apply to any person, whether or not a member of the Division. It is our way of going on record as disapproving of something. Len has proposed that the Division censure John Beshara for his statements in GRAUSTARK 238. He is certainly entitled to do so and the motion is entirely in order.

On the other hand, I am sure the members realize that this is easily the most explosive question we have ever handled. If the censure motion passes, some reactions to it might be far out of proportion to its actual import. For this reason, I would like to insure a full discussion of the problem before there is a vote. For this purpose, since other business is little anyway, ACHERON can serve as a forum for discussion.

Since we appear to have about 30 members, there will not be room for everybody in the 10 page maximum unless some restrictions are observed. I therefore request that any member who wishes to comment on this subject:

First, a basic comment of not more than 10-15 typed lines.
Second, extended comments which will be used in whole or part as room is available, on the basis of equality between all those who submit them.

There is this caveat: if two players say essentially the same things in their basic comments, but one of them says something rather unique in his extended comments, I may use those instead. In other words, I will try to preserve, within the space limitations, the full range of membership opinion.

Comments should confine remarks to supporting the proposed censure, opposing it, and related subjects. Commentary should be on the subject, and not stray into unrelated fields (condemnations of the Diplomacy Association, of which Mr. Beshara is Board Chairman, are not germane, for instance). Commentary by non-members will not be printed. Please note the

POWERSHEDRIA #4, dated 2 June 1971 and completely updated, is now being mailed to novice players who inquire.

THE DIVISION ARCHIVE DIRECTOR, Walt Buchanan, R.R. #3, Lebanon IN 46052 can provide you with reprints of out-of-print Diplomacy 'sims at very reasonable cost. This includes rare items such as early BROWDERNAGS, GLOOMORLA, EREBON, GRAUSTARKS, HARAD-DUBS, and others.

DAY BOARDMAN MEMBERS for the current year are already up to 1971BF (58 games), with the year not quite half done. If this trend keeps up, this year will establish a record for new games begun (there were 101 in 1968).

DA BOARD MEMBERS. The Division Chief feels that full cooperation between the DA and the DD is important. If the DA becomes a leading organization in the field, such cooperation will be vital. The Division Chief therefore proposes that DA Board of Directors members (and the Editor of WAZIR if not a Board member) be made eligible for DD membership on the basis of their positions (the DA Board Chairman is already so eligible). Please note Ballot #9.

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR PLAYERS. I hope the members will forgive my getting up on a pulpit for a minute, but as long as I have the room this time, I like to ask you all to consider something. The trade agreements which most magazine editors maintain with each other, while they are courtesy arrangements, have a practical side, too. For one thing, the established network of trades forms an efficient and effective system whereby Editors and Gamesmasters communicate with one another on subjects of general interest. Most importantly, however, it is an essential first step in keeping players informed about what is going on in postal Diplomacy.

The players do not usually have access to all of the important Diplomacy publications. But even those they are often as interested as we, perhaps more so in the announcements of game openings, rules debates, strategy/tactics discussions, and so forth, which appear from time to time. I would like to suggest that every editor make an effort to include information of this sort in his magazine.

Now, none of us has the time or the space to reprint verbatim everything of importance that occurs which happens between issues. Probably the most comprehensive coverage is in ACHERON, which has well over a full page of general coverage of the issues. In many respects I can only hit the highlights. As a minimum, I try to cover all recent game openings and mention other news of interest. Many editors will not have room even for that, and so I cover as much as I can. You would be doing your fellow editors and your readers a good turn by taking time whenever possible to note game openings and such. In addition, to the material you obtain through your trade agreements, do not forget the first page of ACHERON as you get it will provide you with a good summary of the issues.

Now, one of the things I am sure you are all aware of is that the effort in this regard is a tremendous one, and it will be well worth the subscriber's money. I don't think there will be any more unless there are some subscribers. And there won't be any subscribers unless our members get out and push the product. So, please mention DIPLOGROK (spelled Diplomacy) in your magazine. A comment should be made about the (condemnation of the Diplomacy Association) and the fact that it is a good thing to have a good product.

DON'T FORGET THOSE OLD DIPLOMACY ZINES! Cleaning out your room, cellar, or attic. Print out old issues, save them for posterity. Wrap them securely and mail them third class to Division Chief Walker (address on page 1) or to Archives Director Buchanan (Walt Buchanan, R.R. #3, Lebanon, IN 46052). You will store these extras and, as new archive collections appear, we will be able to help provide out-of-print items. Either Walt or I, whenever you send them to, will be happy to pay your postage costs if you request it. Drop us a postcard to inform us the material is on the way, so we can watch for it.

I thank you. Walt thanks you. Future bibliographic squabbles thank you. [And, in case you don't remember, Walt's HOOSIER ARCHIVES, the world's only Diplomacy weekly, frequently lists his holdings (of which you may obtain copies at cost) and usually prints original or reprint articles on strategy and tactics. Trade or subscribe (I self-addressed, stamped envelope per issue); it's worth it!]

DIVISION APPOINTMENT. I hereby appoint Gary Jones the Division Ratings Director. He will be compiling a rating system, to appear in DIPLOGROK, and therefore should hold de jure a position he will hold de facto anyway.